



MAGISTRATE JUDGE VACANCY UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the appointment of a full-time United States magistrate judge for the Western District of Arkansas in Fort Smith. The position, currently held by Beverly Stites Jones, will become available on or after January 2, 2007. Judge Jones is retiring effective January 2, 2007.

The duties of the position are demanding and wide-ranging, and will include: (1) conduct of most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct of various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from a district judge; and (4) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. The basic authority of a United States magistrate judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636.

To be qualified for appointment an applicant must

- (1) Be, and have been for at least five years, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States, and have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least 5 years (with some substitutes authorized);**
- (2) Be competent to perform all the duties of the office; be of good moral character; be emotionally stable and mature; be committed to equal justice under the law; be in good health, be patient and courteous; and be capable of deliberation and decisiveness;**
- (3) Be less than seventy years old; and**
- (4) Not be related to a judge of the district court.**

A merit selection panel composed of attorneys and other members of the community will review all applicants and recommend to the district judges in confidence the five persons it considers best qualified. The court will make the appointment following

an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant selected by the court for appointment. An affirmative effort will be made to give due consideration to all qualified applicants, including women and members of minority groups. The current annual salary of the position is \$151,984. The term of office is eight years.

Application forms and more information on the magistrate judge position in this court may be obtained from the clerk of the district court. The application is also available on the court's Internet website: www.arwd.uscourts.gov

All applications will be kept confidential, unless the applicant consents to disclosure, and all applications will be examined only by members of the merit selection panel and the judges of the district court. The panel's deliberations will remain confidential.

Applications must be submitted only by applicants personally and must be received by March 31, 2006. Applications should be mailed or delivered to the following address:

**Christopher R. Johnson
Clerk of the Court
United States District Court (U.S. Mail)
P.O. Box 1547
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902**

Or

**Christopher R. Johnson
Clerk of the Court
United States District Court (FedEx, UPS or DHL)
Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building
Room 1038, 30 S. 6th Street
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901**